

continue to rise. If it exceeds 106°, heatstroke could result, causing seizures, organ damage, or death. If your dog is suffering from heat exhaustion (begins with rapid, noisy breathing), lower its body temperature immediately by soaking with cool water. Then, take the animal to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Note: On an average 75° summer day, the temperature in a car can rise to a deadly 120° within a half-hour. Leaving the windows open a crack or parking in the shade does little to alleviate the heat. It is against the law to leave animals in parked cars in extreme temperature and/or without adequate ventilation.

Look for ticks after every hike. Check your dog's body thoroughly. Pull the tick straight out, without squeezing. Ticks can carry a variety of diseases transmittable to dogs, including Lyme disease. Ticks must feed on a dog's blood for 24-36 hours before transmitting Lyme disease, so check again after a few hours for any that may have been missed. The western black-legged tick (about 50% of the local tick population) is the species that carries Lyme disease. About 1-2% of these ticks are carriers.

To determine the species of a tick, or obtain a referral to an agency that can determine whether a tick is a carrier of Lyme disease, please contact Santa Clara County Vector Control at 408-792-5010. Vector Control and some veterinarians discourage the use of a



Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

new Lyme disease vaccine for dogs, noting it requires additional testing. Prompt removal of ticks is the best prevention.

District Regulations for Dog Use

The District follows a set of regulations that are strictly enforced by District rangers, including the following Ordinance:

701.1(c) Leash Required

No person shall allow or have a dog on District Lands, unless the dog is at all times under control, and on a leash not to exceed 6 feet, or on a self-retracting leash with a maximum extended length of 25 feet. The leash must be held by person responsible for the dog and must be made of material and construction sufficient to restrain the dog. Electronic or other "invisible leashes" do not meet the leash requirement. The self-retracting leash must have the capability of being retracted and locked in a position not to exceed 6 feet.

Within a designated area, no person shall have or allow a dog on a lead greater than 6 feet when:

- a) Within 100 feet of any parking area, trailhead, picnic area, campground, horse stable, public roadway, restroom, visitor center, ranger station, or other place or structure of public assembly;
- b) Within 50 feet of any person that is not the person or persons who entered District lands with the dog; or
- c) Within 50 feet of any District Water Area.

A complete list of all District ordinances, including additional information on regulations for dog use, is available at the District office and on the District's Web site www.openspace.org.

Emergency Contact Information

In the event that you experience an emergency on District lands (fire, accident, or other immediate threat to life or property), call 911 or contact the District's 24-hour emergency dispatch number for District rangers at 650-968-4411. This phone number is for emergency use only; for any other District business call the District's administrative office at 650-691-1200. This number is answered weekdays during regular business hours, and voice mail is available outside of regular hours.

For Further Information

For further information, please call, write, or visit the District: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022-1404. The telephone number is 650-691-1200, email may be sent to info@openspace.org, or visit www.openspace.org.

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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Revised and reprinted 10-2007



Dog Access Guidelines



Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

There are many wonderful hikes and trails for you and your canine companion to enjoy on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves. The following District open space preserves are open to dogs on leash:

On all trails at:

- Coal Creek Open Space Preserve
- Foothills Open Space Preserve
- Fremont Older Open Space Preserve
- Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve
- Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Kennedy-Limekiln Area only)
- St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve
- Thornewood Open Space Preserve

17.5-acre off-leash area at:

- Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

On designated trails at:

- Long Ridge Open Space Preserve
- Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Regional Open Space



Dog Access Guidelines

The District is committed to providing an open space experience for every type of user. Most of the District's 220 miles of designated trails are unpaved "wildland" trails in steep, rugged terrain. Many of the trails are open to dogs on leash.

Before heading out to one of the dog-friendly preserves with your dog, please review the dog access guidelines below. Your cooperation and compliance with the following guidelines is essential to ensure dog access, your safety, resource protection, and an enjoyable experience for everyone using the trails.

Sharing the trails. The District offers low-intensity recreational use consistent with resource protection and preservation. Hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, runners, small children, senior citizens, dog-walkers, photographers, people in wheelchairs, bird watchers, and other nature study groups are all out on the trails exploring open space.



To help make multiple-use trails work, each user should keep in mind the needs of others. Visitors with dogs should give other hikers the right-of-way. Some visitors may be unfamiliar with and

possibly frightened by dogs. Also give horses the right-of-way. Move off the trail far enough to allow horses to pass. Communicate with others, and keep your dog quiet and under control.

Pulgas Ridge Preserve off-leash area. Visitors can let their dog off-leash in the 17.5 acres in the center of the Preserve, accessible from the Cordilleras Trail, the Polly Geraci/Hassler Trails, and the Blue Oak Trail. While in this area, visitors must have a leash in their possession and their dog must be under voice control. Dogs must be kept on leash to and from the off-leash area.

Leash law and use of retractable leashes.

Dogs must be on leash at all times except in the designated off-leash area at Pulgas Ridge Preserve. Invisible and electronic leashes do not meet the District's leash requirement.

Please refer to the "Leash Required" Ordinance on the other side of this brochure for more information.

Waste cleanup. Dog waste can pose a health hazard and a public nuisance. Do not leave waste on the trails or within view. Either move waste well off the trail, or bag it and pack it out with you. Do not leave bagged waste at the preserve or outside preserve restrooms. Leaving bagged waste is considered littering.

Other. Visitors may have no more than three dogs per person within areas where dogs are allowed on District preserves (**Ordinance 701.1(a) Dogs**). Dogs are not allowed in any District water area, including streams or ponds (**Ordinance 701.1(f) Dogs in Water Areas**).

Trail Conditions/Seasonal Closures Information.

Each year, the District seasonally closes certain trails to bicycle and equestrian use during wet conditions to ensure visitor safety, protect the trail tread, and prevent resource damage. Decisions to close trails are based on current and predicted weather conditions. Trails may also be closed temporarily throughout the year due to construction or resource conservation projects. When you visit the preserves, always look for trail closure signs. Violations of any official trail closures are subject to citation.

Before heading out on your ride, please check the District's trail conditions and seasonal closures information.

- Visit www.openspace.org;
- Call the Trail Conditions Hotline at 650-691-2150 (enter Option 3);
- Call the District's administrative office at 650-691-1200.

Benefits of These Basic Guidelines

Protecting public safety. Keeping your dog on leash ensures that your dog will not startle other unsuspecting visitors who may also be using the preserves and helps reduce conflicts with other visitors. It also lessens the chance that another visitor, or dog, may be bitten, no matter how unlikely it may seem to occur.

Protecting wildlife. The open space preserves provide permanent sanctuaries for native wildlife and vegetation. As pressures from the expanding human population increase, the preserves become even more important as refuges for wildlife. Nesting birds, stream life, reptiles, and mammals, such as the San Francisco dusky-footed wood rat (a Species of Special Concern), depend on the protection of open space.

Harmful interactions between dogs and wildlife have been reported on public lands. Interactions such as harassing, chasing, or attacking can be very stressful to wildlife and are not allowed on District lands. Cooperating with these guidelines helps reduce the impact of domestic animals on wildlife and the environment.

Protecting your dog. Leashes can keep your dog safe from wildlife. Dogs may encounter rattlesnakes, bobcats, coyote, or even a mountain lion, and behave in a way which places them in danger. Leashes also protect your dog from other dogs. For the protection of wildlife and your canine companion, keep your dog on leash.

District Dog Programs

Volunteer trail patrol companion dog program.

Trail Patrol volunteers, which include bicyclists, equestrians, hikers, runners, and companion dog patrollers, patrol District trails, talk with preserve visitors about trail safety and etiquette, provide information, report trail conditions to staff, and monitor conservation easements. For more information on this program or if you're interested in signing up, please visit the District's Web site www.openspace.org.

Docent-led dog activities.

The District generally offers docent-led dog outings throughout the year. Check the *Outdoor Activities* schedule located inside the quarterly newsletter *Open Space Views* available from the District and on the District's Web site www.openspace.org. The activities are free, though some require reservations.

CARE OF YOUR DOG

Remember, a dog depends on its owner!

Always carry water for your dog. Dogs will need a lot of water for summer hikes. Carrying a lightweight plastic container and water is recommended.

Choose a hike within the limits of your dog's ability. Dogs, like people, need to be in condition for exercising. Start slowly. Do not ask your dog to do too much too soon. For an older dog or a dog with arthritis, or any other medical problem, a long hike can be dangerous. Keep in mind that dogs are sprinters by nature. They are not built for long distance running. An owner's awareness will play a big role in the success of the outing.

Restrict exercise in the heat of the day. Hike in the shade, where possible. *Heatstroke* is a great danger to animals during the summer. Dogs do not eliminate heat as efficiently as humans do. When air temperature is close to body temperature, cooling by rapid breathing is not effective. Dogs need cool air to exchange for warm air. If the air becomes too warm, a dog's body temperature, normally 102.5°, will

(continued on next page)



Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve